

Application No: 10/822,146

Docket No.: 713-1122

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending. New claims 12-15 have been added to secure an appropriate scope of protection to which applicants are believed entitled.

The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 3 is noted with appreciation.

**Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-11 are not obvious over Aleardi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,429,606)
in view of Yer (U.S. Patent Publication (2002/0140538))**

The rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being obvious over Aleardi in view of Yer is hereby traversed. There are at least three reasons why claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-11 are patentable over Aleardi in view of Yer.

First, Applicant is unable to understand the reasoning set forth at page 2, paragraph 4 of the present Official Action (OA). Specifically, the OA asserts that Aleardi discloses, "the coils . . . being inverted upon the wire (20) engaging a respective common terminal 27 between two adjacent coils 22, 23." OA at page 2, section 2. Contrary to the assertion in the present OA, the PTO-cited portions of Aleardi (FIG. 1; column 3, lines 36-63) do not mention (or depict) coils being inverted upon the wire (20) engaging a respective common terminal 27 between two adjacent coils. Aleardi fails to include a common terminal between two adjacent coils and fails to describe the coils as being inverted upon the wire engaging terminal 27 or 26. Further confusing matters, the present OA admits in the succeeding paragraph that Aleardi "does not disclose . . . the winding direction [of] the wire being inverted upon the wire engaging a respective common terminal between two adjacent coils." Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

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As pointed out above, the examiner admits that Aleardi does not disclose the coils being wound alternately onto the drum in an opposite direction for each coil and the winding direction of the wire being inverted upon the wire engaging a respective common terminal between two adjacent coils and attempts to combine Aleardi with Yer to cure the admitted deficiencies. OA at page 2, section 2.

Second, with respect to claim 1, the cited portion of Yer is reproduced herein for ease of reference:

In a transformer of the inverter for the LCD, the winding arrangement of the coil 2 is shown in FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the first round begins to be wound at the left side of the bottom within the left winding part 5a and then the next rounds are wound in a zigzag shape. After the 25th round is wound, the middle winding part 5b at the center thereof begins to be wound. Subsequently, in the same manner as the left winding part 5a, the 26th round begins to be wound at the left side of the bottom within the middle winding part 5b and the next rounds are wound in a zigzag shape. Thereafter, the right winding part 5c begins to be wound and then the next rounds are wound in the same manner. Finally, the last round 1st within the right winding part 5c is wound. The last round 1st is fed back into the left winding part 5a via a return line 2c that is connected to the lead pin 3.

Yer at paragraph 11.

Yer describes overlapping of successive coils and the coils being wound in a zigzag manner, i.e., overlapping windings of coil 2 are described as being wound in a zigzag shape. See, for example, FIG. 4. Yer fails to disclose a winding direction of the coil, let alone each individual coil, wound in an opposite direction as in the claimed subject matter. **There is no change in winding direction of the Yer coils only a change in the overlap pattern.** For example, the winding direction, whether clockwise or counter-clockwise, around ferrite cores 4a, 4b is not discussed in Yer. In contrast, Claim 1 requires that the winding direction of the wire be inverted upon the wire engaging a common terminal. This feature finds support in Figs. 4 and 6 of the original application where it is disclosed that the winding direction of Shaft 50 is inverted. Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

A rejection based on 35 U.S.C §103(a) requires some suggestion or motivation in the references to combine the reference teachings. The Office Action fails to identify a

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suggestion or motivation set forth by Aleardi and Yer to combine the references as asserted.

Third, the OA states that it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to combine the transformer winding disclosed by Aleardi and the winding arrangement as disclosed by Yer OA at page 3 lines 5-8 in order to increase capacitive impedance without identifying why Aleardi would desire to increase capacitive impedance. Further, Yer fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Aleardi.

"When an obviousness determination is based on multiple prior art references, there must be a showing of some 'teaching, suggestion, or reason' to combine the references." Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang, 53 USPQ2d 1580, 1586 (Fed. Cir. 2000). The PTO has failed to make such a showing supporting the applied combination of references and therefore the applied combination of references is improper. The Office Action is in error for any of the above reasons and has not made out a prima facie case of obviousness, and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Based on each of the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-5, and 7-10 as well as new claim 12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, include further limitations, and are patentable over Aleardi in view of Yer for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 2

With specific reference to claim 2, Aleardi discloses a lighter having 2 coils in the secondary winding and four terminals, "respective pairs of output terminals [26], 27, each of which, in use, caters to a corresponding burner on cooking range 2." Aleardi at column 3, lines 56-58. That is, Aleardi describes 2 coils and 4 terminals. Thus, Aleardi fails to disclose or suggest n coils and $n+1$ terminals as claimed in claim 2. Based on at least the foregoing reason and those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 9-10

With specific reference to claims 9-10, Aleardi fails to disclose or suggest that the terminals are located side by side along the same first side of the casing. This feature finds support in the disclosed embodiment in which the alignment of the terminals safeguards against sparks being generated between the cooking range C and wires T and reduces the vertical size of the lighter, thus making the gas lighter compact, cheap and easy to produce. Present specification at page 12, line 25-28. Based on at least the foregoing reason and those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 14 and 15

Claims 11, 14 and 15 are patentable over Aleardi in view of Yer for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 1.

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**Claim 6 is not obvious over Aleardi in view of Yer and further in view of
Gwozdz (U.S. Patent 4,683,518)**

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aleardi in view of Yer and further in view of Gwozdz is hereby traversed. Claim 6 is patentable over the applied combination of references for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1 from which it depends. Combining Aleardi and Yer with Gwozdz fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Aleardi and Yer. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

New claim 13 recites a transformer including: a primary winding; a secondary winding, wherein the secondary winding is divided into a number of coils; and a predetermined number of output terminals; wherein the coils are wound on axially adjacent portions of a tubular drum forming part of a supporting member made of electrically insulating material and including supports projecting tangentially with respect to the drum and each supporting a respective said terminal; wherein the coils are electrically connected to one another in series to form one secondary winding, the secondary winding comprising an electrically conducting wire continuously wound onto the drum, wherein the wire is wound alternately around the drum in an opposite direction for each coil and the winding direction of the wire is inverted upon the wire engaging a respective common terminal between two adjacent coils.

As stated above, none of the references of record teach or suggest at least a secondary winding having coils comprising an electrically conducting wire wound alternately around a drum in an opposite direction for each coil as claimed in claim 13 which finds support in the present specification at page 7, lines 14-17 and Figs. 4 and 6.

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Conclusion


For each of the above reasons, the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner and the rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 6, 2006
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